

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An e-mail access gateway system comprising:

5 an authorization system receiving an e-mail message and determining whether a reply to the e-mail message is authorized; and

a reply system receiving the e-mail message and generating a response message if the e-mail message is authorized.

10 2. The system of claim 1 further comprising a reply composition system coupled to the reply system, the reply composition system receiving the e-mail message, extracting one or more query data fields, and assembling the response message from one or more response data fields that are selected in response to the one or more query data fields.

15 3. The system of claim 1 further comprising an e-mail system coupled to the reply system, the e-mail system providing one or more external e-mail messages to the reply system, and the reply system incorporating one or more fields from the one or more external e-mail messages into the response message.

20 4. The system of claim 1 further comprising a contacts management system coupled to the reply system, the contacts management system providing one or more fields to the reply system, and the reply system incorporating one or more fields from the contacts management system into the response message.

25 5. The system of claim 1 further comprising a calendar system coupled to the reply system, the calendar system providing one or more fields to the reply system, and the reply system incorporating one or more fields from the calendar system into the response message.

30 6. The system of claim 1 further comprising a movie system coupled to the reply system, the movie system providing one or more fields to the reply system, and the reply system incorporating one or more fields from the movie system into the response message.

7. The system of claim 1 further comprising a sales system coupled to the reply system, the sales system extracting purchase request data from the e-mail message and generating sales authorization data.

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THE FOLLOWING

8. A method for allowing a user to access data using e-mail comprising:
transmitting an e-mail message containing authorization data to a gateway system;
receiving response data from the gateway system if the authorization data is correct; and
receiving a general message from the gateway system if the authorization data is
5 incorrect.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the general message is an error message.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein transmitting the e-mail message containing the
10 authorization data to the gateway system comprises transmitting the e-mail message to a
functional e-mail address.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein transmitting the e-mail message containing the
authorization data to the gateway system comprises transmitting the e-mail message containing
15 an authorized device identifier.

12. The method of claim 8 wherein transmitting the e-mail message containing the
authorization data to the gateway system comprises transmitting the e-mail message containing
20 an authorized username field and password field.

13. The method of claim 8 wherein transmitting the e-mail message containing the
authorization data to the gateway system further comprises:

receiving a record address message from the gateway system addressed to a record
address; and

25 replying to the record address message.

14. The method of claim 8 further comprising:
replying to the response data with one or more reply data fields; and
receiving supplemental response data in response to the reply data fields.

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15. The method of claim 8 wherein the e-mail message includes an external e-mail account identifier and the response data includes one or more external e-mail account messages.

16. The method of claim 8 wherein the e-mail message includes a calendar identifier
5 and the response data includes one or more calendar data fields.

17. The method of claim 8 wherein the e-mail message includes a contacts identifier and the response data includes one or more contacts data fields.

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18. A method for receiving movie data using e-mail comprising:
transmitting movie request data to a functional e-mail address; and
receiving one or more movie data fields in response to the movie request data.

5 19. The method of claim 18 wherein transmitting movie request data includes
transmitting one or more of the group comprising location data, theater data, title data, and
showtime data.

10 20. The method of claim 18 wherein receiving the one or more movie data fields in
response to the movie request data further comprises:

receiving an e-mail message that includes one or more movie titles and an associated
number;

replying to the e-mail message with one or more of the associated numbers; and

15 receiving an e-mail message that includes one or more showtimes for the movie titles
corresponding to the one or more associated numbers.

21. The method of claim 18 further comprising:

transmitting a ticket purchase request in response to the one or more movie data fields;

and

20 receiving purchase confirmation data.